Extreme Prejudice ™& ©1994 Extreme Studios, ARR.

Extreme Studios Anticipates Extremely Favorable Response to Extreme Prejudice

The guys at Extreme Studios are convinced that, once their four-title, seven-part crossover series hits the comic shop racks, fans are going to be eagerly searching for each installment to find out what's happening next.

Of course, they just might be prejudiced... ***Extreme Prejudice***d, that is...

Extreme Prejudice, a seven-part series that will begin in ***Team Youngblood #7,*** then continue into ***Brigade #8, Bloodstrike #9, Supreme #11, Team Youngblood #8, Brigade #9,*** and ***Bloodstrike #10*** (with an aftermath story in ***Supreme #12***), is the first major event to unite several of the Image books produced by Extreme Studios. The series is written by Eric Stephenson (who writes three of the books) and Kurt Hathaway (who writes one), based on a plot created by Stephenson and Rob Liefeld. "Rob and I sat down and came up with the basis for the whole story," Stephenson said. "Rob already had the basic premise for the story, and then he handed it over to me. He said, 'Here, tie up all the loose ends, make it coherent, make it work.' That's what we've done... In a roundabout way, we're establishing history through the things we're doing in the present. One thing that is awkward when you have a new universe is you have to go back and create history for yourselves."

The storyline involves a character named Quantum who was imprisoned at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean two decades ago by the original Youngblood. Now he's escaped, and as he learns how the world has changed, readers learn what the world was like when he was the most dangerous villain in the Extreme Universe.... and he's still a pretty malevolent guy. Stephenson describes him as "a guy who is extremely powerful. He certainly has the power level of someone like Supreme... Additionally, I think it's important that after this particular crossover, we are going to deal with the ramifications of it for several issues. One of the guys, a major player in one of the books, is going to die, for instance, and that will be carried over into several issues afterward. We also have a character who winds up losing his abilities, so we'll be dealing with that for some time to come..."

Not only will major changes take place in the four titles involved in ***Extreme Prejudice,*** but a new title will also grow out of the storyline. ***The Newmen***, written by Eric Stephenson and illustrated by Jeff Matsuda, is a light-hearted, action-packed superteam book that will join the Extreme line-up in April.

Extreme Prejudice begins in early March... but who can say when all the effects of this storyline will end? Certainly not Eric Stephenson, who feels confident that this will be viewed as a major turning point in the Image Universe.

by Cliff Biggers

Madman Returns, Riding a Dark Horse

Michael D. Allred's Madman, who has been missing in action for over a year now, is returning to comic shops this spring—and when he arrives, he'll be in the company of a new publisher, Dark Horse comics. A new publisher doesn't mean dramatic changes for the series, though; both Dark Horse and Allred promise that fans will find more of the wry adventures and absurdist philosophy that made Madman such a cult favorite in his first two series.

"While Madman is an intellectual character seeking the deeper secrets of his soul," Bob Schreck of Dark Horse said, "he is also a lot of fun. Madman's world contains robots, aliens, and scientists, and monsters, and boasts the best of action-adventure, science fiction, mystery, and romance. The combination is a fascinating concept—sheer 'madness'! All of us at Dark Horse are so thrilled and honored to have Michael aboard our team."

The new series, ***Madman Comics,*** will pick up where the previous series left off; the first issue will feature an introduction summarizing the previous series for newcomers. Madman is a reanimated amnesiac on a quest for his identity. "In his search to recall his previous life," Allred said, "Madman is constantly absorbing everything, questioning everything, seeking the answers to everything. He's very aware, insightful, and intelligent."

©1994 Michael Allred

The first issue's storyline pits Madman against creatures from outer space who crash-land just outside of Snap City. At the same time, he has to deal with an unknown element in the city's sewers that is transforming the city's beatnik population.

Allred's move to Dark Horse isn't caused by any falling out with his previous publisher, Tundra Comics (which has now become a part of Kitchen Sink Press). According to Allred, Tundra founder Kevin Eastman ultimately advised him that the move to Dark Horse was a sensible decision, due both to their proximity to Allred's studio and to their strong history of support for cutting-edge projects. "I couldn't ask for a better home for this continuing series," Allred said. "Dark Horse has always been incredibly enthusiastic and supportive of ***Madman.*** It's a wonderful creative breeding ground. I've gotten to know most of the people there and I like them a great deal. I trust everybody completely. And to top it off, Dark Horse is a very successful company. It's the perfect way to go."

Allred is still working with Kitchen Sink, though; that company will be releasing a variety of Madman collectibles in the near future. One of the collectibles that will have the strongest appeal to Madman fans is the all-new Madman trading card series featuring artwork done especially for the cards; this series will feature work by such well-known comics illustrators as Jack Kirby, Alex Toth, Dave Stevens, Frank Miller, P. Craig Russell, Dave Dorman, Steve Rude, Mike Kaluta, Art Adams, Jeff Smith, and many others.

Madman Comics #1, a $2.95 32-page full-color comic featuring a special back cover by Frank Miller, is scheduled for April 14th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Wayne Manor Vs. Frank Castle?... Batman Meets Punisher—Twice!

Batman certainly is enjoying a lot of company this year, isn't he? Just a couple of months after his historic meeting with Spawn in two different comics (one from Image, one from DC), Batman will be crossing paths with a character who, in many ways, has a lot in common with him. Both of them lost their family to brutal criminals who gunned them down for no apparent reason; both of them have devoted their lives to tracking down criminals; both of them use the skills they have developed over the years to wage war on crime; and both of them have a unique arsenal at their disposal.

Batman, meet the Punisher. Punisher, meet the Batman.

And that's just what they'll do—*twice*, in fact—this summer. The two crimefighters will meet first in ***Batman/Punisher: Lake of Fire,*** a 48-page prestige-format DC Comics one-shot written by Dennis O'Neil and illustrated by Barry Kitson and James Pascoe; the one-shot is edited by Archie Goodwin.

Two months later, the two will meet again in Marvel's ***Punisher/Batman*** crossover book written by Chuck Dixon and illustrated by John Romita Jr. and Klaus Janson; this 48-page bookshelf-format one-shot is edited by Don Daley, who said, "Both Chuck and John really clicked on this project like they were born to do it. The only instruction I gave to John was to have fun with Batman's cape."

"I'm really pumped up on this project," Romita said. "I've worked on a lot of great characters in my life, but I've always wanted to try my hand at Batman."

"It's a thrill to draw Batman, and working on a project with Denny O'Neil has been a goal of my career," Barry Kitson said. "His work, particularly on ***Green Lantern/Green Arrow***, helped me form many of my personal values. Compared with Superman, both Punisher and Batman are darker characters. The contrast is compelling."

"The opportunity for a team-up book couldn't have come at a better time in the ongoing Batman continuity," Denny O'Neil said. "The many possibilities are intriguing."

DC's one-shot will tie in with the **KnightsEnd** storyline, while Marvel's one-shot follows the conclusion of **KnightsEnd.** Of course, with the events taking place in the pages of both Batman and the Punisher, this brings up the intriguing question: *which* Batman meets *which* Punisher?

by Alex Kirkland

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Where Wulf? There Wulf, in Blackwulf!

When was the last time Marvel introduced an all-new superteam? ***X-Men 2099***, you say? Ah, but when was the last time Marvel introduced a super-team of all-new heroes operating in current Marvel continuity? Not such an easy question to answer, is it?...

It'll be very easy to answer that one come April, though: all you'll have to do is mention ***Blackwulf,*** the new superteam book by *Glenn Herdling* and *Angel Medina*. ***Blackwulf*** is a story of an impending war between mankind and a genetically unstable race. When Blackwulf, the son of Lord Tantalus, the leader of the invading race, abandons his people to warn the US government of his father's scheme, he is exiled from his own people and must face Tantalus and his Peacekeepers. Blackwulf assembles his own team of heroes to help him in this epic battle—and the action slips into high gear as a new ongoing series is born.

Blackwulf #1, a $2.50 comic with a special enhanced cover, is scheduled for April 14th release.

Old Blood Is New Blood On Youngblood

Rob-fans take heart: *Rob Liefeld* is definitely returning to his premiere Image creation, Youngblood! Beginning in June, Liefeld will join forces with *Jim Shooter,* who signs on as writer of ***Youngblood*** for at least one story arc (and possibly for more). Fans won't have to wait quite that long to enjoy Rob Liefeld's return to comics illustration, though: in May, he'll be working with the ***Team Youngblood*** creative crew of *Eric Stephenson, Dany Mike,* and *Kiko Taganashi* for the ninth issue of that title. Liefeld also contributes a wraparound cover for the $1.95 comic, which leads into the return of ***Youngblood*** in June.

DC Fans Will Soon Hear Gunfire

The second hero from the Bloodlines story arc will graduate into his own series in March when ***Gunfire*** joins the DC line-up. In case you forgot, Gunfire is the hero who originally appeared in ***Deathstroke, the Terminator Annual #2***; his is blessed—or cursed, depending on your point of view—with the ability to turn any object in his hands into an explosive projectile. In his new series, Gunfire has to deal with an unknown force that wants him dead; he has no idea who his enemies are, but he feels certain that they're somehow connected to his late father, who died at the hands of the same alien parasite that gave Gunfire his powers. ***Gunfire #1***, written by *Len Wein* and illustrated by *Steve Erwin* and *Brian Garvey*, is scheduled for March 31st release.

Prison Colony Stages a Breakout In Comic Shops

Prison Colony, an upcoming Pacific Western Productions film starring Ray Liotta, becomes a Marvel comic this spring courtesy of *Roger Salick, Mike Harris,* and *Chris Ivy*. The film—and the three-issue comic book miniseries—tells the story of an ex-marine with a shady past who is held captive in Absalom, a savage prison island from which there is no escape. ***Prison Colony #1***, a $1.50 comic, is scheduled for April 14th release.

The Man With the Hat Is Back!

...and we're not talking about Indiana Jones here. No, we're referring to the original man with the hat, ***The Shadow,*** who is the subject of a stunning cold-cast porcelain bust produced by Graphitti Designs. This 9" bust is designed by *Randy Bowen,* who has perfectly captured the look of *Walter Gibson*'s pulp-hero crimefighter. As an added touch, Graphitti is utilizing an Austrian crystal for the stone in the Shadow's ring. There'll only be 2500 sculptures produced, and the odds are all of those will disappear once the Alec Baldwin Shadow film is released this July (if there are any still available by then). If you want to be sure that you don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind collectible, talk to the friendly folks at your local comic shop and reserve this ***Shadow Sculpture*** today; the ***Shadow Limited Edition Bust*** is priced at $150, but prices are sure to rise once the production run sells through.

Vertigo Paperbacks Focus on a Pair of Deadly Women

A pair of fantastic females star in two spring trade paperbacks slated for release from DC's Vertigo imprint. The first book, scheduled to hit the comic shop racks on April 21st, is ***Death: The High Cost of Living***; this 104-page trade paperback reprints the 1993 limited series by *Neil Gaiman, Chris Bachalo,* and *Mark Buckingham* that was released in hardcover last fall. *Dave McKean* supplies a new cover illustration for the $12.95 trade edition.

The second trade paperback, ***Breathtaker,*** reprints the 1990-release four-issue limited series by *Mark Wheatley* and *Marc Hempel*. The series focused on Chase Darrow, a Breathtaker... that is, a woman who has the terrible power to extract the life essence from the men that she loves, literally loving them to death. She is the object of a no-holds-barred government hunt led by The Man, a government-sanctioned superhero who is to capture her and bring her in for murder. The series' visual style should be very familiar to current readers of ***Sandman,*** where Hempel's artwork complements *Neil Gaiman*'s scripts. ***Breathtaker,*** a 208-page Vertigo trade paperback priced at $14.95, will also feature four new pages by Wheatley and Hempel; look for it on May 5th.

Leonardo Meets the Bat-Man

... and we're not talking about the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle here. In ***Batman Annual #18,*** part of DC's Elseworlds Annuals event, Leonardo's model for a very important portrait is kidnapped, leading the artist's assistant to utilize Leonardo's sketches for a bat-winged flying machine to become an avenging Man-Bat. The annual is written by *Doug Moench* and illustrated by the *Durañona Studios*; look for it on May 5th.

Hard Facts About Solar Deserve a Hardcover

Last month, ***CSN*** told you about Valiant's ***Solar, Man of the Atom Trade Paperback*** reprinting the entire ***Alpha and Omega*** storyline from ***Solar, Man of the Atom #s 1-10***. Now, in response to fans who have asked for a more durable collectible version of this book, Valiant is offering a hardcover edition of the collection. The hardcover, featuring the origin of Solar as told by *Jim Shooter, Barry Windsor-Smith, Bob Layton,* and *Janet Jackson*, will also include a special fold-out poster of "the world's largest comic book panel" featuring the climax to this dramatic origin tale. The ***Solar, Man of the Atom #0 Limited Edition Hardcover*** will be produced in limited quantities, and no extra copies will be manufactured for reorder; if you're interested in a copy of this book, be sure to let the friendly folks at your local comic shop know... and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you, okay?

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Stygmata Leaves His Mark at Entity Comics

If you like comics that feature epic battles between the forces of good and evil, then you'll think that ***Stygmata*** is simply divine. This new title from Entity Comics, written by *John Migliore* and illustrated by *Raff Ienco*, chronicles the adventures of a hero sent by God to do battle with evil forces that threaten humanity. If he fails, then Earth will be devastated by a demonic invasion from hell. "If you like reading ***Spawn,*** you'll *love* ***Stygmata,"*** Entity Comics publisher *Don Chin* said. "***Stygmata #0*** introduces the hottest new artist out of Canada since *Todd McFarlane* and *Stephen Platt—Raff Ienco*, whose detailed graphics are guaranteed to knock your socks off!" ***Stygmata #0***, a $2.95 April release from Entity, will feature a foil-enhanced cover and full-color contents; look for it in April.

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Bat-ten Down the Hatches!...

Forget the typical images of Batman patrolling through the gothic spires of a darkened city, because you won't find much of that in ***Detective Comics Annual #7***. Instead, get ready for nautical adventure, because Batman's riding the waves as a cowled pirate in combat with an evil plunderer known as the Joker. In this Elseworlds annual written by *Chuck Dixon* and illustrated by *Alcatena*, the action takes place on the high seas. Not only will you meet a very different Batman (known in this world as Leatherwing) and Joker, but you'll also be introduces to a beautiful pirate captain with particularly *feline* attributes... ***Detective Comics Annual #7,*** a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for April 14th release.

What If X Marked the Spot?

Mutant alert! X-fans will want to add ***What If? #62*** to their must-read list; the April 21st release presents the intriguing story, "What If Wolverine Battled Weapon X?" When Logan escapes before agents can bond adamantium to his skeleton, another "volunteer" undergoes the process—but since the new Weapon X doesn't have Wolverine's healing process, the constant pain he suffers renders him insane. So who do you suppose gets the job of stopping him?... ***What If? #62,*** a $1.50 comic, is written by *Kurt Busiek* and illustrated by *Ron Randall* and *Art Nichols*.

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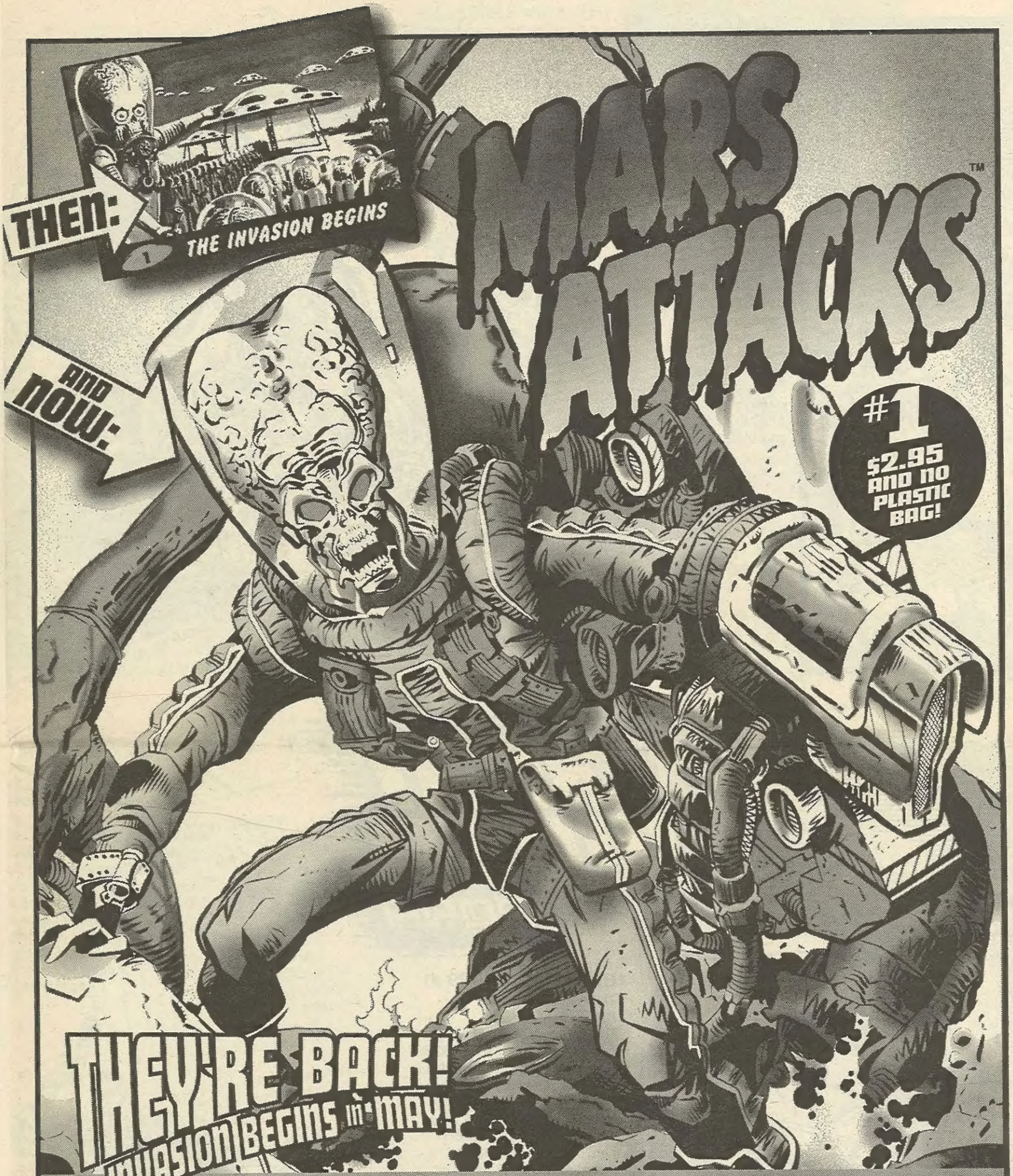

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X-MEN #32

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A twisted tale featuring the climactic confrontation between Psylocke and Spiral for the secrets of Psylocke. And the truth shall set them free. Then again, revelations won't do Psylocke much good if she ends up getting killed obtaining them! Brought to you by Fabian Nicieza, Andy Kubert, and Matt Ryan.

X-FACTOR ANNUAL #9

A MEETING OF THE MINDS

Professor Power is out for revenge on Professor X. But he'll have to wait in line because Xavier is in the middle of a battle of the brains with Haven! Can X-Factor stop Power's army of androids and save Xavier from Haven at the same time? Find out from J.M. DeMatteis, Matt Broome, and Steve Moncuse and Terry Austin. 64 pages all told.

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GHOST RIDER 2099

GHOST RIDER 2099 #1

THE VICIOUS CYCLE BEGINS AGAIN

There's a new blazing biker in town! Meet Ghost Rider 2099: the product of melding a dead man's digitized consciousness to the most technologically advanced warbot of its time. The brutal chromium steel hero of this new series by megatalents Len Kaminski, Chris Bachalo, and Mark Buckingham is going to set the comics world afire!

FURY #1

FOR YOUR EYE ONLY

It's the definitive origin of Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D. featuring all new material by Barry Dutter, M.C. Wyman, and Chris Ivy and Greg Adams! Join Nick Fury as he takes on the threats of Scorpio, Baron Von Strucker, and Arnim Zola. 64 pages of top secret suspense guest-starring Wolverine and Iron Man. Features a painted cover by Lou Harrison.

SPIDER-MAN FLEER CARD PREVIEW

SPIDEY CARDS ARE BOUND TO BE A HIT!

April marks the introduction of the first-ever set of Spider-Man Trading Cards by Mark Bagley. But all this month, there'll be one of three three-card previews bound into all of Marvel's ongoing super hero titles. This week, cards appear in AVENGERS #374, DOOM 2099 #17, EXCALIBUR #77, GHOST RIDER 2099 #1, INCREDIBLE HULK #417, MARVEL AGE #136, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #154, MORBIUS #21, PUNISHER #90, SPIDER-MAN #46, THUNDERSTRIKE #8, WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #28, WHAT IF? #61, X-MEN #32, and X-MEN 2099 #8.

INCREDIBLE HULK #417

THE BOOK THAT REDEFINES THE TERM "COMIC STRIP"

Marlo bares all at Rick Jones' rambunctious bachelor party. Guaranteed you won't believe the, uh...revelations of this issue! And there's even more fun and frolicking at Marlo's bridal shower. A most comedic comic by Peter David, Gary Frank, and Cam Smith.

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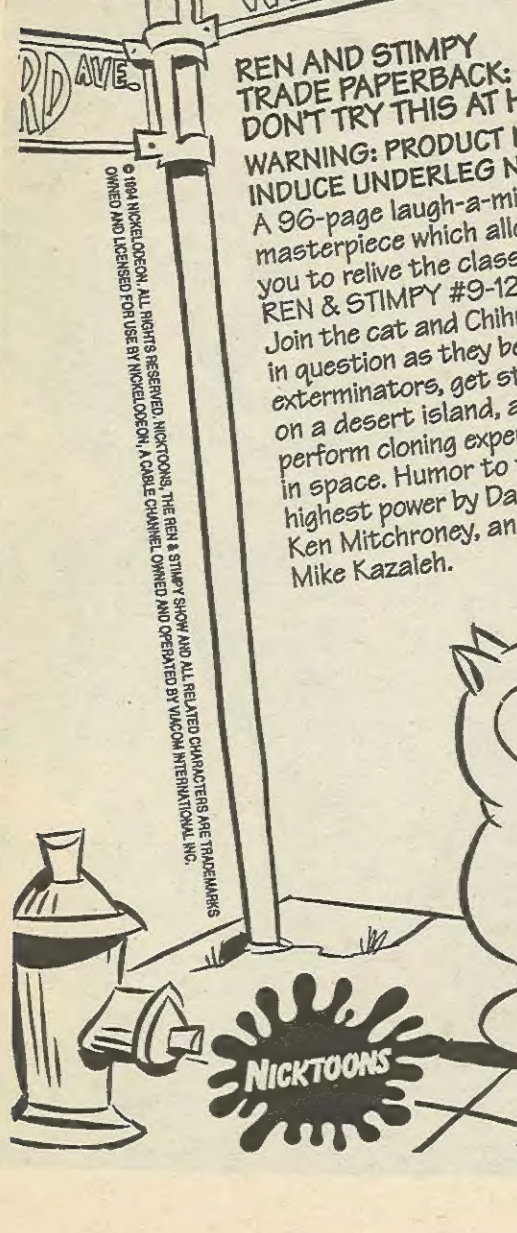

REN AND STIMPY TRADE PAPERBACK: DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

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A 96-page laugh-a-minute masterpiece which allows you to relive the classic REN & STIMPY #9-12. Join the cat and Chihuahua in question as they become exterminators, get stranded on a desert island, and perform cloning experiments in space. Humor to the highest power by Dan Slott, Ken Mitchroney, and Mike Kazaleh.

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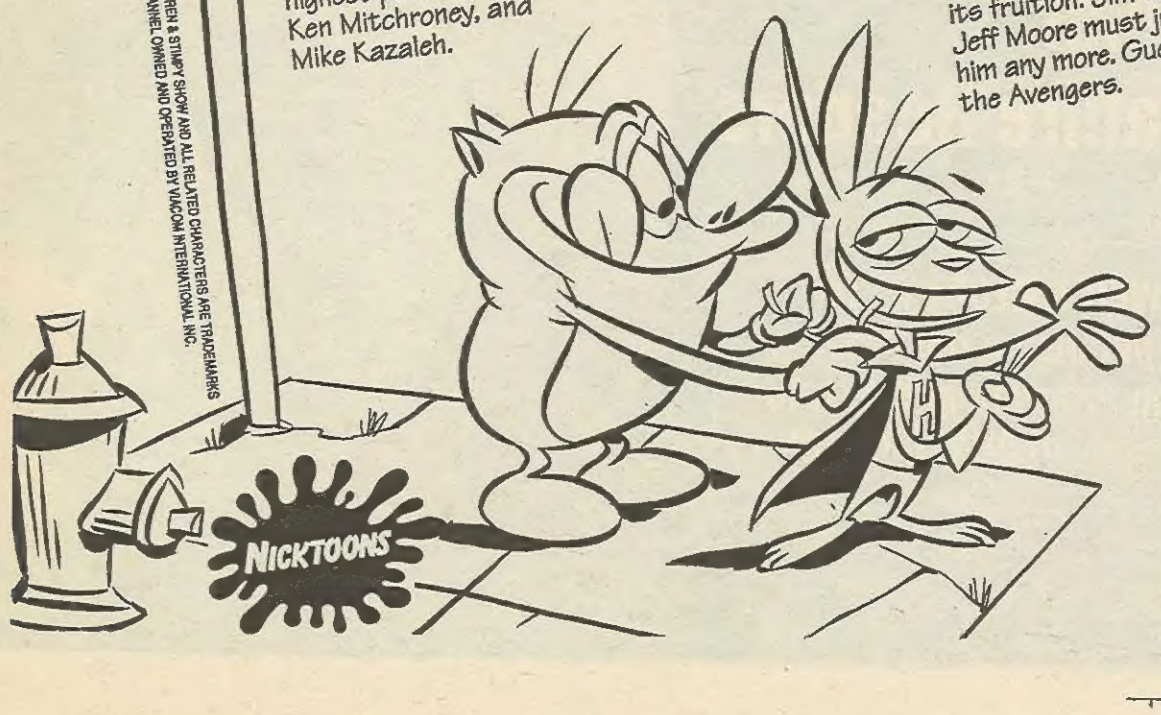


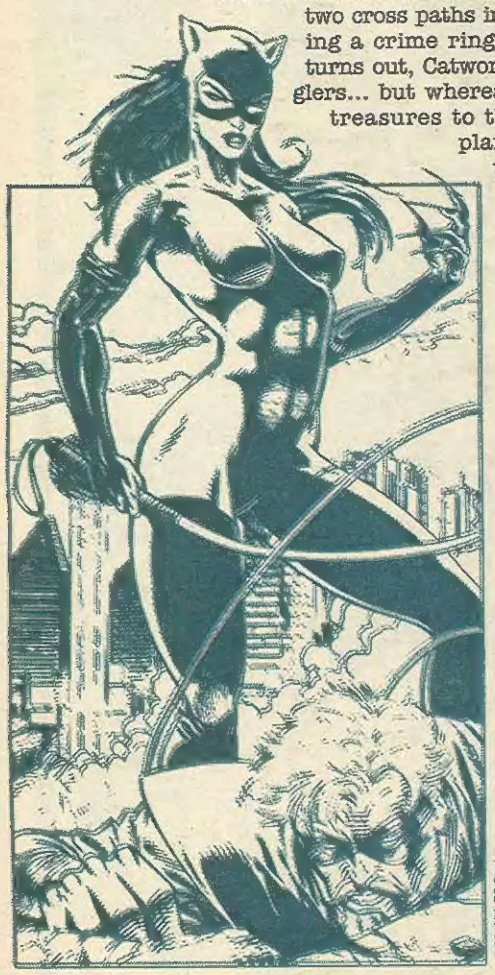
WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #28

BEAUTY AND THE MAN-BEAST

Boy! Has Warlock got troubles! He's gotta deal with the sinister Senator Munson. The Man-Beast has returned to settle his score with everybody's favorite bearer of the Soul Gem. All this and Count Abyss' plot to take down Warlock once and for all nears its fruition. Jim Starlin and Jeff Moore must just not love him any more. Guest-starring the Avengers.

Which Is Sharper Arrows or Claws?

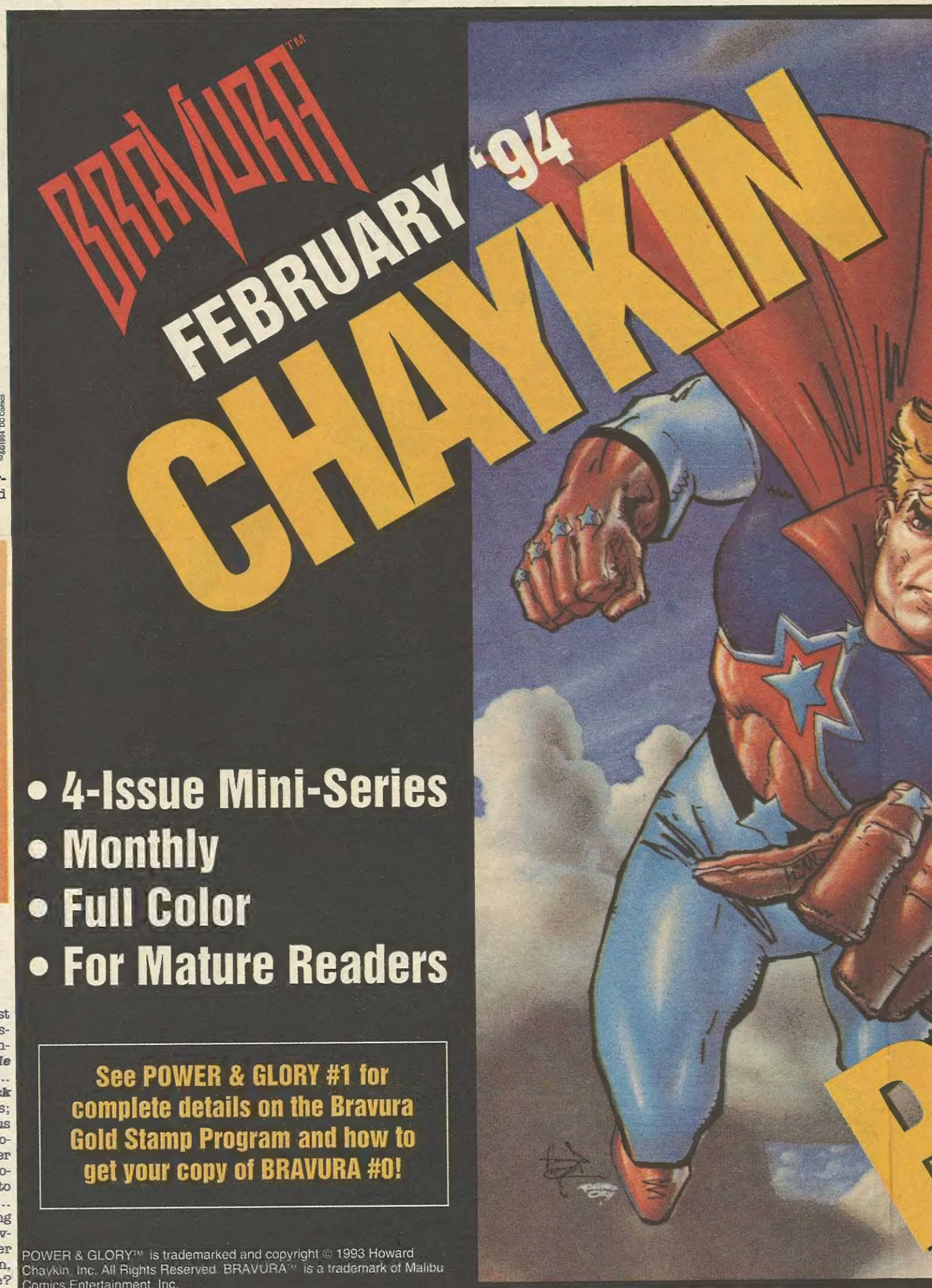
Green Arrow has been involved with a number of interesting women during his crimefighting career, but none of them have afforded him more of a challenge than Catwoman. The two cross paths in Dallas, where Green Arrow is tracking a crime ring smuggling ancient artifacts. As it turns out, Catwoman is on the trail of the same smugglers... but whereas Green Arrow wants to return the treasures to their rightful owners, Catwoman is planning a more personally remunerative use for the priceless artifacts.



The confrontation takes place in ***Green Arrow #86***, courtesy of Moench, Aparo, and Fernandez; look for it on April 7th.

Marvel Publishes Cone-ic Books

Coneheads may not have set ticket sales records when the film was in theatrical release last summer—but a lot of savvy industry insiders are predicting a very lively video life for this film once it goes into rental release. That's why, when the video hits the stores, Marvel's ***Coneheads*** comic will hit the comic shop racks. Coneheads, a four-issue limited series written by *Terry Collins* and illustrated by *Tom Richmond*, takes the world's most famous couple from "France" on a vacation to—you guessed it—France. There's trouble back home, though, when the High Master of Remulak conspires to eliminate Beldar, who is becoming far too popular with the planet's citizenry. ***Coneheads #1,*** a $1.75 comic, is scheduled for April 21st release.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Zeroing In on Zero Hour

Zero Hour, the DC miniseries that will focus on anomalies within the DC Universe's timeline, is approaching later this year—but clues are already appearing concerning that series' storyline. Recently, in ***Valor,*** readers have seen the death of the title character—a death that will play a major role in ***Zero Hour.*** In April, ***Team Titans*** readers will witness another significant event as the Team Titans are ripped apart by death and destruction. In the aftermath, the surviving members are split into smaller groups and forced to operate under the supervision of the US government. The big change occurs in ***Team Titans #31,*** produced by *Jensen, Jiminez, Dodson,* and *Blyberg*; look for it on April 28th.

CSNsider

Tim Sale takes over for *Jim Lee* as the artist of ***Deathblow*** beginning with the third issue... Millennium has a couple of pulp-inspired titles, including ***G-8 and His Battle Aces***, in the works as comics miniseries... *Art Thibert* is producing a new series, ***Black and White,*** for Image's Extreme Studios; look for previews in the back back of various Extreme books... Superman comes face-to-face with the Milestone heroes in a crossover story slated for release this summer; the storyline crossover over from Milestone titles to Superman family titles and back again... Youngblood isn't the only Image title making the jump to animation; word is out that several others, including WildCATs, are under consideration... Is *Jeff Smith*, the ***Bone***-man, really doing a ***TMNT*** story for Archie? Sounds likely!...

Good Gosh, What an Adventure!

Rudyard Kipling's experiences in India led to some pretty fantastic adventure tales—but you can rest assured that Kipling never foresaw anything along the lines of Rogan Gosh... and if he had, you can rest assured that everyone would have dismissed his fantastic visions as imaginative delusions.

Rogan Gosh, described by DC's Patricia Jeres as a "psychedelic adventure that combines reality with illusion, Hindu mysticism with science fiction, and spiritual enlightenment with lavishly written Indian menus," is a 56-page Vertigo one-shot presenting material that originally appeared in the cutting-edge British anthology ***Revolver.***

"***Rogan Gosh*** follows two young men and a monkey through the opium-den dreams of Rudyard Kipling, past modern-day London, to a futuristic India," Jeres said, "from where a remarkable creature called Rogan Gosh emerges from among exotic Hindu deities." The book presents a complex, enigmatic tale of the search for truth entertwined with maya, a search for Brahman truths inside a spicy Indian menu. It's at times confounding, enlightening—but always entertaining.

Rogan Gosh is written by Peter Milligan and illustrated by Brendan McCarthy, who varies his artistic style to complement the changes in Milligan's narrative. The 56-page Vertigo oneshot, priced at $6.95, is slated for March 24th release; it is intended for mature readers due to its strong language.

by KIM B. PEARSON

Blackball's Newest Title is Really Radical!...

Radical Dreamer, the *Mark Wheatley* series that debuted in the first two issues of Blackball Comics, graduates to its own ongoing series in May, with the release of ***Radical Dreamer #0.***

This special zero issue will provide a recap and introduction to the ***Radical Dreamer*** series; the star of this storyline is Max Wrighter, who explores the potential of the Dream Network, an addictive new form of interactive virtual reality. As Wrighter learns more about the mysteries of this network, he also is forced to learn more about himself.

"***Radical Dreamer #0,*** which carries a $1.75 cover price, is presented in an exciting new Poster Format for comics," *George White*, marketing director for Blackball, said. "It looks like a comic and reads like a comic, but the last eight pages unfold into a poster, making it the world's largest comic page... ***Radical Dreamer #1,*** which will also feature the full-color Poster Format, will be released in June."

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Viz Is Takin' It To the Streets

The comic book-videogame market is obviously a lucrative two-way street. Not only have comic books such as ***X-Men*** spawned successful videogames, but videogames such as ***Sonic the Hedgehog*** have made the move to comic books. This April, the trend continues with the debut of a new ***Street Fighter II*** limited series inspired by the mega-successful videogame.

Viz's ***Street Fighter II*** isn't the first attempt to bring the videogame to the comic book market; Malibu Entertainment offered a comic book version of the game last year, but disagreements between Malibu and Capcom Entertainment, Ltd., concerning the direction of the comic book led to its cancellation. This time, rather than creating a version of ***Street Fighter II*** specifically tailored to the American comic book market, Capcom, Viz Comics and Tokuma Publishing have reached an agreement to present the Japanese manga version of ***Street Fighter II*** in translated form.

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Street Fighter II, an eight-issue limited series, is written and illustrated by Masaomi Kanazaki, best known to manga fans for his sf manga series ***Xenon.*** Kanazaki's adaptation features all the familiar characters videogame fans have identify with ***Street Fighter II,*** including Ryu, the Japanese martial artist; Ken, his American counterpart; Dhalsim, the Indian fighter; Blanka, the Brazilian beast-warrior; Guile, the hard-edged American vet; Zangiev, the Russian wrestler; E. Honda, the sum superstar; Chun-Li, the Chinese martial arts master; and the notorious M. Bison.

The first issue brings the Street Fighter II crew to a man-made island once touted as the "City of the Future." Now a ghost town, the island is a land where survival of the fittest is the only law and street fighting is the only justice.

The comic book will reach the midway point of its run this summer when the ***Street Fighter II*** live-action film debuts. Directed by Steven de Souza, well known for such action epics as ***Die Hard & Die Hard II, Commando,*** and ***Running Man,*** the film promises to be faithful to the videogame—and it promises to create a tremendous demand for the comic book series.

Street Fighter II #1, a $2.95 full-color 32-page comic, is scheduled for April 7th release.

by Kim B. Pearson

WAR DANCER

DEFIANT

MARCH HOT PICKS!

by cliff biggers

"Where are the *big* books?" This is the questions we continually heard from ***CSN*** readers during January and February, two typically slow months for the industry. The slow months are coming to an end, though, with the release of some Very Big Comics from a number of publishers—including what may be the biggest crossover project of the year. Surprisingly, even after the winter slowdown, the number of comics has continued to grow through the winter season... and that trend shows no sign of ending come this spring, thanks to the growing number of publishers and the expanding lines of several small and mid-size companies. So what are the must-haves for March? Here's two dozen of 'em!

ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX 1

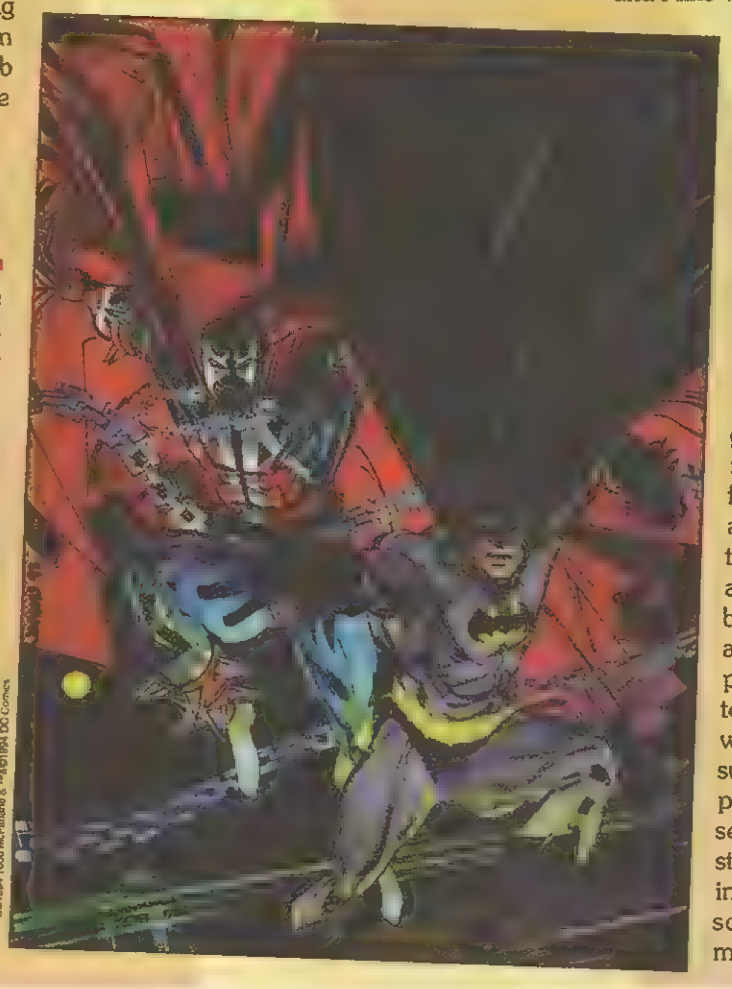
(Marvel, $2.95)

Their wedding was the comic book social event for January, so it's no surprise that their honeymoon should be a springtime sizzler. Don't look for a typical honeymoon here, though; instead, this blissful couple is heading into the future, where they'll meet a very young Nathan Summers (you remember him, right?... that Cable guy?...) and some surprising menaces that'll make 'em wish they had read that Club Med brochure a bit more closely instead.

ARMORINES 1

(Valiant, $2.25)

Valiant's bringing in the big guns in March... and the armored troops to carry them! ***Armorines*** is the latest team book to join the Valiant line; the Armorines are a high-tech battle-suit Navy SEALS sort of team that take on a variety of jobs too dangerous for non-techno-enhanced soldiers. They're still learning the complexities of their armor, which should add some interesting subplots. Jorge Gonzalez, Jim Calafiore, and Rodney Ramos, all Valiant veterans, handle the creative honors on the first of three new series that Valiant will debut in '94.



BATMAN-SPAWN: WAR DEVIL

(DC, $4.95)

This is the first of *two* titles featuring these two heroic denizens of the dark night. DC's crack team of Batman writers, including Chuck Dixon, Doug Moench, and Alan Grant, join forces to author this adventure; Klaus Janson, whose credits include working with Frank Miller on ***Batman: The Dark Knight Returns,*** is the illustrator. Spawn comes to Gotham in search of clues about his former life—and as you might expect, the inevitable confrontation between the heroes occurs. The two soon join forces, though, to try to stop the oncoming Devil War. In the past, crossovers were presented in a single storyline jointly produced by both companies; this time out, though, both Image and DC are publishing their own one-shot featuring the two characters—and fans get the benefit of seeing both companies' interpretations of two of the field's most popular stars.

CHARLEMAGNE 1

(Defiant, $3.25)

Charlemagne is the most down-to-earth entry thus far in the growing Defiant Universe. The title character is a young man whose trip to Vietnam twenty years ago in search of his missing brother laid the groundwork for his transformation into a superhero today. Dan Chichester, Adam Pollina, and Mike Witherby handle the creative honors on this 48-page debut issue of this new series.

DAMAGE 1

(DC, $1.75)

We've already confessed a bit of favoritism for this book, since it's set in ***CSN***'s back yard—but ***Damage***'s sharp edge and high-intensity storyline is going to win over a lot of readers who've never set foot in Marietta. It's almost a cliché to refer to every teenage superhero series as a "Spider-Man for the 90's," but in this case, the phrase almost applies: ***Damage*** presents the exploits of a teenage high-school student who had no idea he had any superheroic potential until his powers suddenly made themselves known in a *very* destructive way. Now he's trying to adjust to life in a new school, new powers, new menaces, and a few mysteries. Superman's enemy Metallo shows up to do a little damage of his own... and in subsequent issues, a couple of DC superheroes will be revealed as Damage's true parents.

GHOST RIDER 2099 1

(Marvel, $2.25)

Forget flameheaded mystical spirits of vengeance—this Ghost Rider is high-tech, cutting-edge, fully-enhanced warbot, and he's ready to shake up the world of 2099. His body may be military manufacture, but his psyche is a cyber-space-sneak who lost his true body when he ventures into some cyber-territory that Alchemax and others wanted to keep off limits. Now he's ready to make a lot more trouble for them, though... and the world of 2099 won't be the same! ***Ghost Rider 2099*** reads like a superheroic Terminator, and it's likely to be one of the most popular titles in the 2099 line—so don't pass it up when you have your chance!

GREEN LANTERN 51

(DC, $1.50)

Earth has a new Green Lantern... if he lives long enough to figure out how to use the one and only remaining Green Lantern power ring! After Hal Jordan's actions in ***Green Lantern #50***, it's pretty obvious that GL fans can't expect a return to the status quo—which is why there's a new, younger, more inexperienced Green Lantern on the scene. Superman fans won't want to miss the appearance of Mongul in this first Kyle Raynor Green Lantern storyline; Supes himself will make a guest appearance in an upcoming issue. You won't want to miss out on the first full-length appearance of this new character—and neither will many thousands of other DC fans, so latch onto a copy when you get the chance!

GUNFIRE 1

(DC, $1.75)

He's a hero who can turn everything he touches into a deadly, explosive projectile. Now DC is betting that he

can turn his own series into an explosively popular new comic book. He's Gunfire, a hero first introduced in the New Blood storyline last year; now he's graduating into his own series, courtesy of Len wein, Steve Erwin, and Brian Garvey. This is one new hero debut that may well be underordered; keep an eye out for it.

HELLBOY: SEED OF DESTRUCTION 1

(Dark Horse, $2.50)

Mike Mignola's paranormal investigator is the latest star entry in the Legend lineup; judging from the number of readers who eagerly latch onto anything they can find by Mignola, this should be a Hellboy of a seller for sure! John Byrne handles the scripting honors for the series—and Art Adams' Monkeyman and O'Brien star in the backup story, giving this title a one-two-three creative punch that should be a KO (or is that A-OK?) on the comic racks.

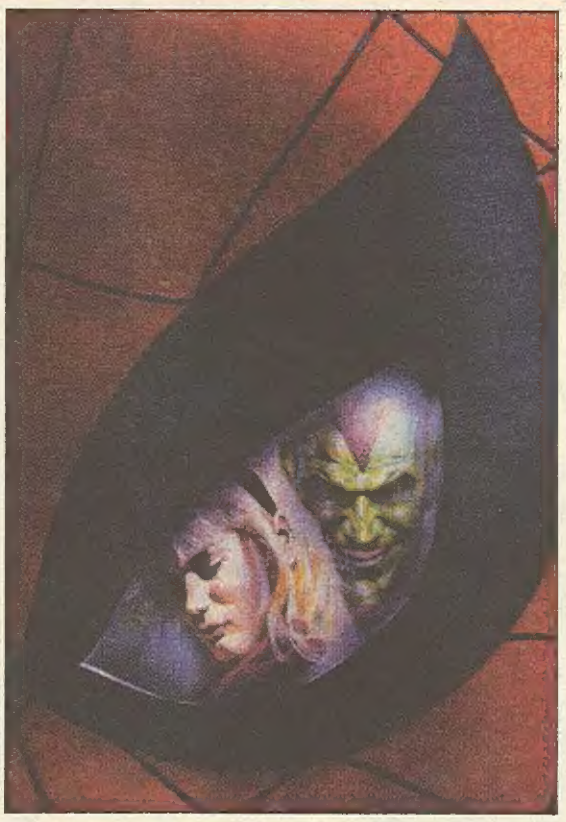
LOONEY TUNES 1

(DC, $1.50)

The cosmic balance has been restored! After far too many years' absence from the comic racks, the perennially popular Looney Tunes characters are once again returning to the "funny books." And it's only natural that their newest comic book series should be published by DC, a subsidiary of Warner Bros.—the company responsible for some of the most popular cartoons of all time. For years, it's been difficult for comic shop owners to explain to civilians why they can't pick up a comic book based on their favorite cartoon characters; now they won't have to explain it—they can just hand 'em an issue of ***Looney Tunes.***

MARVELS 4

(Marvel, $5.95)



This one is hot for the same reason that the first three issues were hot: it's one of the best written, most lavishly illustrated series that any publisher has ever released in the superhero field. If you've tried to find the first two sell-out issues of this series, then you know why the finale is on our Hot Picks list. If you haven't... well, just trust us on this one and pick it up. Once you do, all will become clear...

NAMOR 50

(Marvel, $2.95)

The Sub-Mariner's been foolin' around ... although he may be the only one who's willing to publicly admit it! In this extra-length issue that ties in with Fantastic Four, Namor's romantic tryst with Sue Richards becomes public knowledge—or doesn't become public knowledge, as the case may be... because Sue's denying that it ever happened! What's the story here? You'll have to pick up the book to find out! (And since ***Namor*** normally has a significantly smaller print run than ***Fantastic Four,*** you might want to pick it up quickly—while you still can...)

KINDRED 1

(Image, $2.50)

Grifter and Backlash, already well-known to readers of ***WildCATs*** and ***Stormwatch,*** aren't the best of friends—but they overcome their animosity to rescue the director of International Operations... a man they dislike more than they dislike one another. This miniseries by Jim Lee, Brandon Choi, Sean Ruffner, Brett Booth, and Sal Regla pulls together two of the more popular characters from two of Image's most popular super-team books... so is there any wonder that it's on our Hot Picks List?

PROJECT A-KO 1 & 2

(Malibu, $2.95@)

Just trust us here: by the time you finish this charming series, you'll see why it's so highly recommended. The story is about two teenage girls, one superpowered teenager and the other a high-tech whiz, who become involved in an epic battle to win the friendship (and save the life) of another teenage girl. The best part of all is the anticlimax punchline, and we're not giving it away here, so you'll have to read the book to see where it's all going.

PROPHET 5

(Image, $1.95)

Stephen Platt takes over as artist of ***Prophet*** with this issue. Platt. Stephen Platt... the guy who made ***Moon Knight #55*** one of the hardest-to-find comics of 1993. The guy some call the next Todd McFarlane. Hey, how many different ways do we have to tell you the same thing?! You're gonna want this book!

RAY 1

(DC, $2.95)

The Ray is back in a new series—and this time, it's ongoing. This time, he's in Hawaii, where he soon meets another DC teen-hero sensation, Superboy, as the pair takes on Brimstone, Darkseid's thug of destruction. Unfortunately, miniseries artist Joe Quesada is too busy as a major-league fan-favorite Ninjak artist to return to the ongoing series (although he did manage to supply the art for a multi-level foil-embossed cover), but DC has found a talented new art team to join series writer Christopher Priest: Howard Porter and Robert Jones, whose work has the same clean, crisp style that made Quesada's work so refreshing in the original series.

RUNE 3/ ULTRAVERSE PREMIERE 1

(Malibu Ultraverse, $3.50)

It's two—two—two comics in one! On one side, it's Chris Ulm and Barry Windsor-Smith's ***Rune,*** the long-lived space-vampire antihero of the Ultraverse. On the other side, it's the premiere issue of a new floating comic book that attaches itself to a different Ultraverse title each month. The first issue of ***Premiere*** introduces a new character, features the first solo strip starring Warstrike (who'll graduate to his own ongoing series later this year), an dishes out the poop on the ultra-secret Aladdin.

SHOWCASE '94 5

(DC, $1.95)

Robin and the Huntress kick off a three-part story arc in this issue; it continues from here to ***Robin #7***, then back to ***Showcase '94 #6*** for the wrap-up. Since the Huntress is starring in her own miniseries next month, a lot of fans are going to want to get a head-start on her adventures.. which means that there'll be a lot of Bat-fan interest focused here.

SPAWN-BATMAN CROSSOVER

(Image, $3.95)

This is the one that *every* fan is going to want. Frank Miller writes it. Todd McFarlane draws it. It's the first time either of them has worked with the Batman in years. As if that isn't enough, they also collaborate on a special jam double-page spread, and Greg Capullo supplies another double-page spread. And the

whole 48-page shebang is bargain-priced at $3.95, making it the most affordable prestige-format book in years. When this one hits the shelves, grab a copy quick and stand back before you get trampled, okay?...

SPIDER-MAN & X-FACTOR: SHADOW-GATES 1

(Marvel, $1.95)

This new limited series by Kurt Busiek and Pat Broderick brings together Spidey and X-Factor to track down a renegade group of government-spawned superhumans; they're not together for long, though, before they become excruciatingly aware of their different modus operandi. Busiek is hot right now because of his work on ***Marvels***—and Spidey and X-Factor are pretty popular on their own...

OVERLOOKED

A few months back, ***CSN*** called your attention to a promising anthology series, ***Negative Burn,*** assembled by Joe Pruett, one of the hardest-working editors in the biz. We know that a lot of you took our advice the first time around—and based on what you've told us, you liked what you saw. Well, we're giving you one more chance to find out why this comic is one of the few black-and-white anthologies whose readership has grown steadily since its debut issue. ***Negative Burn: An Anthology #9*** *(Caliber, $2.95)* kicks off a twelve-part series of comic book adaptations of songs by Alan Moore; the first installment is illustrated by Ken Meyer, Jr. Alan Moore's comics work is far rarer than any of us would like it to be, so we're pointing this one out so that you don't overlook it. Once you've finished with the Moore/Meyer story, read the rest of the issue; we suspect you'll like what you see...

SIZZLER!

SYPHONS 1

(Now, $2.50)

The return of Now's first supergroup (absent from the comic shelves for over half a decade now) is newsworthy—but the art by fan-favorite Mark Beachum makes this one sizzle.

VENOM: THE MACE 1

(Marvel, $2.95)

Every ***Venom*** series sells very well, but this one has another plus in its favor: it introduces a new techno-ninja hero, Mace, who will be make frequent appearances in the Marvel Universe in upcoming months. Carl Potts and Liam Sharp handle the creative honors on this limited series, and they promise that big changes in the Venom status quo are in the works before this one is over...

XENYA 1

(Sanctuary, $2.95)

A new publisher, new writers, and new comic book artists... but in this case, the new comic artists are well-known to fantasy fans. Xenya, the story of a mystical female who preys upon the greedy by granting them a single wish,

It slices!
It dices!
The devastating force of MechaKroton terrorizes the entire West Coast and only Buster can stop it! Now if only he had a clue how to tap his powers ...
40-page special edition
coming May 1994
BUSTER
the amazing bear 4
Story and Art by Tommy Yune
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
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THE NEW MANGA EXPERIENCE
BUSTER THE AMAZING BEAR and the URSUS STUDIOS logo TM & © 1994 Tommy Yune. All rights reserved.

Here's to you, Jack.

JACK KIRBY
1917 - 1994

His life enriched us.
His legacy sustains us.
Few gifts are as precious.
Here's to you, Jack.
You will be missed.

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is illustrated by the award-winning Brothers Hildebrandt (joined by a variety of comic artists, including Louis Small, Jr., Mark McKenna, and Tom Smith), making their comic book penciling debut.

SECOND CHANCE

Akira* 5 Ltd. Ed. HC:** This is the way ***Akira should be read—in 300-page lumps, filled with great Katsuhiro Otomo artwork reproduced in high-quality format. *(Graphitti, $45.95)*

Daredevil: Fall From Grace TPB: This may be the only way some of you will be able to enjoy the entire **Fall From Grace** storyline, since the first few installments have become pretty scarce on the collectors' market. The entire series is here in one package, complete with a new cover by Scott McDaniel. *(Marvel, $19.95)*

Diary of a Vampire: Young Dracula TPB: The entire ***Young Dracula*** series, one of Caliber's most popular storylines of '93, is assembled in a single volume and supplemented by new art pages, a limited edition print, and a foil cover... and every copy's signed by the creators! *(Caliber, $18.95)*

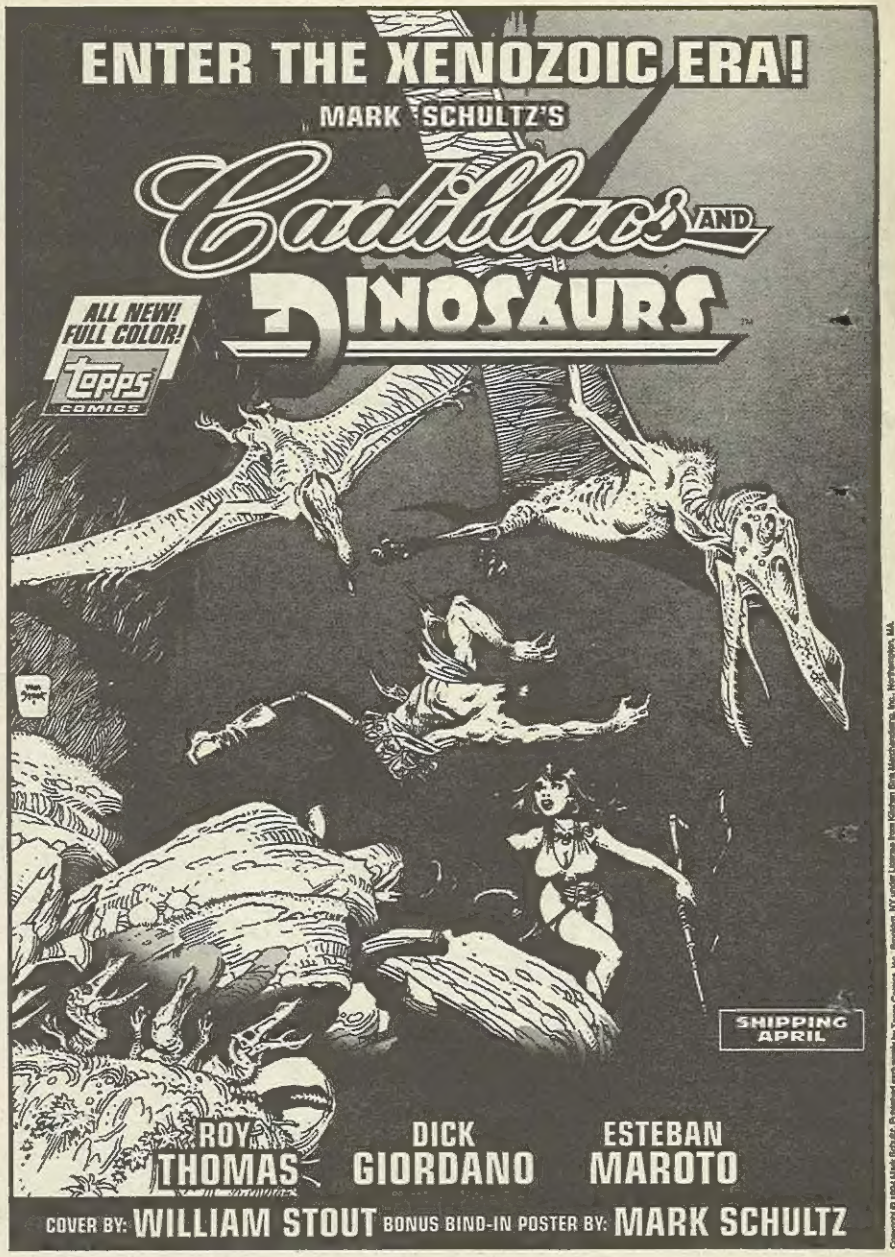
From Hell Volume One Script: This is an expensive splurge item, but Moore fans can't live without it: the entire detailed script from the first issue of From Hell is reproduced here, giving fans their first opportunity to see what Alan Moore's scripts look like. There aren't many of this one available, so let your local comic shop know ASAP if you're interested. *(Borderland, $100)*

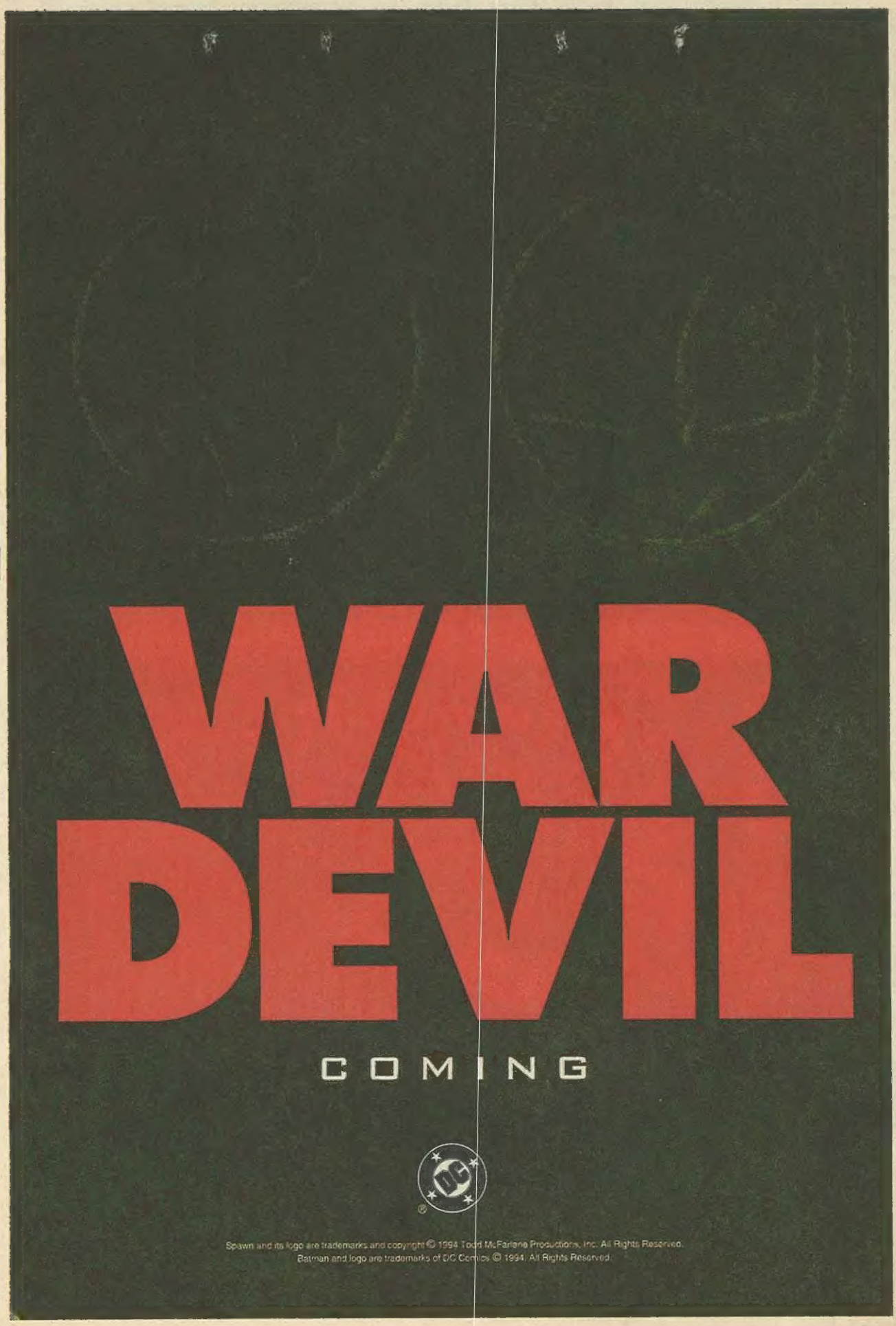
Jack Kirby's Heroes & Villains TPB: This project was in the works before the King's recent death, so it's not an attempt to cash in on tragedy; instead, it's an homage, a tribute to the most influential artist in comics. Over a hundred comic greats ink pencil drawings from Kirby's sketchbook, and the result is a virtual who's who of illustrators working with the man who made the medium what it is today. *(Pure Imagination, $12.00; also available as a $25 hardcover)*

Ray: In a Blaze of Power TPB: Compilation volume of the original ***Ray*** miniseries, featuring art by Joe Quesada. *(DC, $9.95)*

Ren & Stimpy: Don't Try This At Home TPB: Reprinting ***Ren & Stimpy #s 9-12***, along with a few new pages available nowhere else. *(Marvel, $12.95)*

Solar, Man of the Atom 0 TPB: Jim Shooter, Barry Windsor-Smith, and Bob Layton made history with this ten-part serial revealing the origin of Solar; now you can enjoy it all in a single volume, complete with the world's largest comic book panel. *(Valiant, $9.95)*





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